

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

March 2010

Third District, County of San Diego

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Public Safety Efforts Target Two Fronts

New Engine Serves Back Country; Helicopter Is Being Refurbished

Another key fire-fighting tool has been added to San Diego County's firefighting arsenal - a new Type 1 fire engine. This addition will help the County of San Diego to better protect the rural back country. The \$475,000 vehicle was purchased by the County with federal stimulus funds. The engine will be based in the community of Warner Springs, a "hub" location that provides mutual aid to numerous communities.

From there, the engine will also be used for regional firefighting efforts, helping to defend the entire backcountry, and local cities should the need arise. The 21-ton truck is used to fight both wildfires and structural blazes, pumping water from its 500-gallon tank or siphoning it from ponds, pools or other water sources. It has a 24-foot extension ladder, carries full medical gear and up to six firefighters.

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County officials have upgraded the firefighting capacity so that San Diego County does not suffer again through the devastating wildfires that struck in 2003 and 2007.

Oxycodone Abuse On The Rise; Day Set To Dispose of Prescriptions

As concerns grow that teen-agers are finding easy sources of prescription drugs in home medicine cabinets, efforts to draw attention to this societal problem also escalate. The leading culprit, Oxycodone, is a synthetic opiate that gives a heroin-type rush. Oxycodone is the main ingredient in OxyContin, a prescription pain killer traditionally given to cancer patients.

"Parents need to realize how dangerous this abuse is becoming, and how they may be their son's or daughter's 'supplier' simply by keeping old prescriptions in a medicine cabinet that is easily accessible," says Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who leads the county Oxy Task Force and has been raising the issue for the past year. There were 51 deaths reported in San Diego County last year directly linked to Oxycodone.

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Slater-Price Named 'Champion of the Coast'

Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price joined fellow elected officials and friends of the coast for the first annual Casino Night for the Coast. The chairwoman and other leaders received "Champion of the Coast" awards for their contributions to coastal preservation and clean water. The event was hosted by the non-profit advocacy group Cal Coast.



Carlsbad Mayor Pro Tem Ann Kulchin (above) recognizes Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price for her preservation efforts. The honorees included (right) James Bond, Encinitas City Council member; Joe Kellejian, Solana Beach City Council member; Chairwoman Slater-Price; Carlsbad Mayor Pro Tem Kulchin; and Cal Coast Executive Director Steve Aceti.



AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

News of Note

Vote By Mail Promoted

Registered voters should have received a postcard from the Registrar of Voters outlining how to become a permanent vote-by-mail voter. Those interested in voting by mail must follow the instructions on the postcard and send back the perforated section. To check your voter registration status or to get more information about voting, visit the Registrar's website at www.sdvote.com.



Airport Runway Repairs Begin

Work begins in April on a new, 5,000-foot runway at McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad. The county had planned to renovate the existing runway in five phases but had funding only for the first two. The Federal Aviation Administration came forward with funding for the entire runway renovation, costing \$7.89 million.

The airport will close for one week starting at 11:30 p.m. April 25 for phase one construction, after which it will reopen for one week of normal flight operations. This alternating schedule continues until all work is complete. This schedule averts an extended closure of the airport. The new runway will be 23 inches of soil treated with cement, recycled asphalt grindings from the existing runway, and new asphalt. Expected lifespan is 20 years.

Warning Issued For Apple Moth

Residents are being asked to report any sightings of the Light Brown Apple Moth, which was discovered in a trap at a Bon-sall lemon grove. State and federal agriculture officials placed additional traps in the area; a quarantine is triggered once a second moth is found. The apple moth's caterpillar damages the plant by feeding on its leaves, buds, shoots and fruit. The greatest damage comes from larvae feeding on the fruit. The moth, native to Australia, feeds on more than 2,000 plants and at least 250 crops.



LOVING FACES...

Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price (above) and Library Director Jose Aponte show off the display of photographs of children in search of adoptive homes. They chatted with Kim Lams (right), who adopted two children. The traveling exhibit, called "Heart Gallery," puts faces to the children awaiting adoption. "As many as 75 foster children are awaiting adoption daily through the county Health and Human Services Agency," explains Chairwoman Slater-Price. "This exhibit lets people see these children, with their warm eyes and expressive smiles." The exhibit tours branch libraries across the county. For information on adoption, call (877) I-ADOPT-U (423-6788).



Make Your Transaction Golden, Not Tarnished

The advertisements are tempting – earn quick cash by selling your no-longer-worn jewelry and gold. County authorities are warning that all that glitters is not golden, however. To mark March as National Weights and Measures Week, staff with the county Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures are cautioning residents of the possible scams now in play.

"We are investigating a new type of business that is becoming very popular – traveling gold shows," says Robert Atkins, County Sealer of Weights and Measures, whose agency last year visited more than 260 scales at pawn shops, jewelry stores, traveling road shows and shopping mall kiosks to make sure they were compliant.

Atkins advises a seller be aware of several factors before agreeing to sell their gold:

- Is the scale approved legal-for-trade?
- Is the scale tested and sealed by a sealer?
- Is the scale installed by a registered service agency?
- Is the scale indicator visible to the seller?
- Is there a misrepresentation of the quality of the metal (18k vs. 22k)?
- Is the weight being rounded down?
- Is the buyer a licensed weightmaster?

Visit the county website at www.sdcawm.org for more information on how to avoid being caught in a fraud when selling personal possessions.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT



Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price joined elected officials and business leaders to launch "True North, Bring the Business Home," an initiative of the San Diego North Convention & Visitors Bureau that seeks to attract business meetings and sporting events to North County.



Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price (above) chats with Larry Kaufman, Vice President of sales for the San Diego North Convention & Visitors Bureau. She then joined Stan Lewis (right) and Valerie Stallings, trustees of the Museum of Photographic Arts.

Promotion Effort Lands Major Tourney

The first significant booking has been recorded in the "True North - Bring the Business Home San Diego" campaign.

A three-day national lacrosse tournament, PacificXPOSURE, takes place June 25 to 27 and is expected to fill more than 400 hotel rooms and boost visitor spending in the region. Families are expected to extend overnight stays on both

ends of the three-day tournament and provide a significant economic boost for surrounding San Diego North communities.

"This is the first in what I hope will be many announcements as businesses and others learn about this program," explains Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, whose Third District is home to many of the participating groups and businesses and coordinates closely with the organiz-

er, the San Diego North Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The "True North" program reaches out to industry clusters, business leaders, residents and employees who serve on boards and associations to become "tourism ambassadors" by utilizing their influence to help bring conferences, corporate meetings and sporting events to San Diego North.

Shade sails bring color and an artistic flair to the children's patio of the Encinitas Library. The installation was made possible in part by a donation from Poway-based Architectural Shade Sails. Branch librarian Sandy Housely says the shade has made the outdoor space much more inviting.



A county proclamation honoring the founder of the San Diego Jewish Film Museum was presented to Joyce Axelrod during a reception that followed a screening of up-and-coming filmmakers. On the motion by Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, March 15 was dedicated as Joyce Axelrod Day in San Diego County. The presentation was made by Nadia Moshirian representing Chairwoman Slater-Price.

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

FIRE

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The new engine is not the only addition made recently to the county's firefighting capacity. Supervisors approved in early March \$1.1 million to refurbish a sheriff's helicopter that has been grounded since October due to reliability issues. The improvements upgrade the copter's capacity to carry larger payloads, perform better in extreme temperatures, and fly at higher altitudes. By incorporating the improvements, the helicopter will be rated to fly for another 12,000 hours, approximately 20 years.

The decision was fiscally prudent, says Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price.

"It would cost \$2.5 million to replace it with a new model," she explains. "This region saves more than \$1.2 million while improving its firefighting capabilities."

In the past five years, the County of San Diego has purchased 33 fire engines, reports Chairwoman Slater-Price. The County has also purchased water tenders and other equipment to battle wildfires. Supervisors created the San Diego County Fire Authority to better respond to wildfires and provide emergency medical care for residents and visitors to the backcountry.

"Placing the new engine in Warner Springs helps protect the entire region," explains Chairwoman Slater-Price. "When an emergency strikes, every minute of response time matters. Quick response means a fire is knocked down before it gains the

momentum and the fuel to become a raging inferno that threatens life and property. For an accident victim, a quick response means trained emergency personnel are there to comfort and assist."

From its centralized location, Warner Springs provides emergency services for a variety of towns and attractions, including Julian, Palomar Mountain and the Sunrise Highway. It is also a popular back-country drive for those traveling to Palm Springs and the Temecula wineries.

"Public safety is the central role of county government, says Chairwoman Slater-Price.

"We watched in horror in 2003 and again in 2007 when devastating wildfires destroyed hundreds of homes in District Three and impacted thousands of lives. The County of San Diego made it a priority to vastly improve its firefighting response. The addition of this 34th engine is proof that our commitment continues today. We are better prepared, better staffed, better trained and better organized than at any time in the region's history."

The new engine was purchased with federal stimulus funds.

OXY

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Chairwoman Slater-Price met in early March with officials from the City of San Diego to update them on recent developments. Follow-up presentations are being

April's "Take Back" day drop-off sites:

- County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway.
- Scripps Memorial Hospital, Encinitas, 354 Santa Fe Drive.
- Tri-City Medical Center, 4202 Vista Way.
- Poway Sheriff's Station, 113100 Bowron Road.
- El Cajon Courthouse, 250 E. Main St.
- South Bay Courthouse, 500 Third Ave.

organized for San Carlos, Mira Mesa and Rancho Bernardo.

Efforts are also under way to stage a second "Prescription Drug Take Back Day," slated for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17. The first "Take Back" day last October resulted in the volunteer surrender of more than 320 pounds of prescription drugs.

"This is a crisis," says Chairwoman Slater-Price. "The numbers speak for themselves. In one 10-month investigation, sheriff's deputies made 43 arrests and seized more than 1,800 tablets. Those arrested were between the ages of 17 and 23, came from middle- to upper-middle-class families, and had no prior criminal records.

"This example represents the tip of the iceberg. There are thousands of pills sitting in bathrooms across this county. Each one is an invitation for abuse."

Call (877) 662-6384 to learn how to properly dispose of prescription pills.

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